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## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for treating virus infection comprising the step of administering to a subject in need thereof an anti-viral amount of a leflunomide product.
- 5 2. The method of claim 1 wherein the leflunomide product is N-(4-trifluoromethylphenyl)-5-methylisoxazol-4-carboxamide (HWA 486).
3. The method of claim 1 wherein the leflunomide product is N-(4-trifluoromethylphenyl)-2-cyano-3-hydroxycrotonamide (A771726).
- 10 4. The method of claim 1 wherein the amount of leflunomide product administered is from about 0.1 to 80 mg/day.
5. The method of claim 1 wherein the virus is a herpesvirus.
6. The method of claim 5 wherein the virus is selected from the group consisting of paramyxoviruses, picornaviruses and hepatitis viruses.
- 15 7. The method of claim 1 wherein the virus is selected from the group consisting of CMV, HSV, measles virus, rhinoviruses, hepatitis B and hepatitis C.
8. The method of claim 1 wherein another anti-viral agent is administered to the subject.
- 20 9. The method of claim 1 wherein a pyrimidine is administered to the subject.

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10. The method of claim 1 wherein the virus is resistant to anti-viral agents that inhibit viral DNA replication.

11. The method of claim 1 wherein the subject is at risk of viral infection.

5 12. The method of claim 1 wherein the subject is suffering from virus infection.

13. A method of inhibiting growth of a virus in a cell comprising the step of contacting the cell with an amount of leflunomide product effective to inhibit virion assembly.

10 14. A method of screening for a leflunomide product or derivative thereof having anti-viral activity comprising the steps of:

- (a) growing a virus in cell culture,
- (b) contacting the cell culture with a test amount of leflunomide product or derivative thereof, and
- 15 (c) determining the effect of the test amount on viral growth.

15 15. Use of a leflunomide product in the preparation of a medicament for treatment of viral infection.

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